The officials of OMCs carry out random checks at distributors godowns, delivery points, as well as en-route to ensure that no misuse takes place. The distributors of OMCs are under strict instructions to check the weight of cylinders at their godowns before delivery, and only cylinders with the specified weight are to be delivered to the customers. The distributors have also been instructed to ensure that the seals are verified & shown to the customers at the time of delivery. In case any under-weight cylinder is received by the customer, such cylinders are replaced free of charge by the OMCs.

Cost escalation in Indo-Iran gas pileline project

3824. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has received invitation from his counterpart in Pakistan to discuss strategies of Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the delay in Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline has severe cost escalation; and

(d) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to finalize the strategy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) An invitation was received from Minister for Petroleum & Natural Resources, Government of Pakistan for participation of an Indian delegation led by Minister (Petroleum & Natural Gas) in a Ministerial-level meeting for discussions on pending bilateral issues concerning Iran-Pakistan India (IPI) Gas Pipeline Project to be held in Islamabad, Pakistan. The above mentioned meeting has been held in Islamabad on April 25, 2008.

(c) and (d) Such multilateral projects involve protracted discussions, as all the aspects have to be carefully examined and deliberated upon to the satisfaction of the participating countries to protect each country's interests and to avoid any problems in the future in the successful operation of the project.

CNG distribution centre in Rajasthan

†3825. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of CNG distribution centres setup for the use by vehicles in various States during last three years;

(b) whether any CNG distribution centres have been setup in any city in Rajasthan during this period;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) by when the guidelines issued by Hon'ble Rajasthan High Court, Jodhpur will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) The number of CNG outlets opened during the last

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

three years, *i.e.*, from 2005-06 to 2007-08 (till November, 2007), in the various states are given below:—

Name of the State	CNG station opened during the last three years
Delhi	18
Maharashtra	22
Andhra Pradesh	09
Uttar Pradesh	12
Tripura	01
Gujarat	53
TOTAL	115

(b) to (d) Presently no CNG station has been opened up in Rajsthan. Until recently, no trunk pipeline for natural gas was available in vicinity of the major cities of Rajasthan.

(e) GAIL has commissioned Vijaipur-Kota pipeline in January, 2007. GAIL has been issued authorization for Chhainsa-Gurgaon-Jajjhar-Hissar pipeline, passing close to Alwar in Rajasthan. Further, GAIL has applied to Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board for authorization for City Gas Distribution projects in Kota and other cities of Rajasthan.

Shortage of LPG

3826. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of LPG shortage in various parts of the country during the last six months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, by indicating by when the problem of LPG shortage will put to an end;

(c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government for fulfilment of LPG demand in the country;

(d) whether there is any proposal to hike LPG prices on demand of second cylinder within a month time limit; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that at present, there is no overall shortage of LPG in the country and LPG supplies to distributors are being made by the OMCs through indigenous production and imports in accordance with the genuine demand of customers registered with the LPG distributors. OMCs have further reported that they have supplied 9394 Thousand Metric Tonnes (TMTs) of domestic LPG in the country during the year April, 2007—February, 2008 as against 8863 TMTs during the corresponding period of 2006-07.